

Miami Dade County
Asian American Advisory Board
111 NW. First Street, suite 1034
Miami, FL 33128

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING
June 11, 2013

MINUTES

Present: Adam Tavakoly, (Chair); Melissa Braynon; Reza D’Jehanshahi; Dr.Nasser Eftekhari; Sadrul H. Fasihi; Nazy Given; Josephine Gordy; Nidal Hozein; Joseph Johnson; Barnaby Min Esq.; Shabbir Motorwala; Meital Stavinsky; Victor Swaroop; Shabbir Motorwala; Ali Taqi; Nick Vicera; Manny Wong; Dr. Jim Yu; and; Mohammad Shakir, Director.

Excused: Ali Taqi; Mehmet Ulutas

Guests: Reinaldo Valdes; Patty Pitayapisut; Professor Adrienne Thompson; Office Naznin Faraji, Homeland Security; Detectives Gilbert Yap; Shad Mzeghet; FBI Agents Steven Weir; Kathleen Cymbaluk.

Minutes: Meeting came to order at 6:15, Chair welcomed the guests, and asked to introduce themselves. He confirmed the quorum and asked for a motion. Shabbir Motorwala moved, Barnaby Min seconded; Nick Vicera offered a modification. Board unanimously approved minutes as modified. [16-0]

Director’s Report: The Director told the Board about the APA Heritage Month celebrations at various locations in town. That the Board arranged for in-kind donations by Mr. Manny Wong/Fullei Fresh; Mr. George Yap/LEASA Corporation and Ocho Rio; who provided snacks and drinks for about two hundred people. Board also facilitated the speaker. Professor Adrienne Aiko Thompson made a presentation. He also stated some difficulty in setting up the lobby display due to a last minute maneuvering. He suggested that the Board should establish a Heritage planning committee that should plan the event and coordinate with partners around town for a comprehensive Heritage Month Celebration program each year. He also presented the “Information on the Ethnicity and Gender of County Employees” and highlighted a dearth of blue collar representation in the workforce. Director also updated the board about Dr. Pochi, a candidate for the Board’

Old Business: Community Recognition Dinner –Mr. Wong shared financial details reporting a net profit of \$ 3,184.12 plus \$1,000 by Dr. Bill K Yeh for the Scholarship fund, there are still few receivables pending and bring couple of hundred dollars more. Chair praised Mr. Wong for an excellent job. Chair also said he will take the lead for the next year’s dinner. Ms. Given said, I would repeat my disappointment about the lost opportunity to promote scholarship and ask for revenues to be dedicated to the Scholarship fund because this is an added event to an already committed scholarship fund activity. She was informed that the dinner “Distinguished Community Service Award” has been taking place since 1999; it was left out during the 10th Anniversary Gala celebrations.

Scholarship Committee—Ms. Given expressed her difficulty in fundraising for the event, she was reminded to gather the list of old donors and work with them, she said she is already working on it. She also asked others to help her reach the 13 community based organizations that participated in Recognition Dinner to connect with them.

Membership—Director asked for the action plan about Dr.Pochi’s membership. Board agreed that Mr.Tavakoly will write a letter to Commissioner Souto to remind about Dr. Pochi’s candidacy. Director as assigned to follow-up.

Mr. Vicera raised the motion that the Board should take action to address the issue of some members who, according to public records of Miami-Dade County (MDC) and Section 2 of MDC Ordinance # 97-128, are not eligible to be members of the Board not being MDC resident and not being MDC elector. The Board voted down the motion.

New Business: Seven committees were suggested by Chair which are as follows:

Asian Heritage Celebration—Adam Tavakoly; Dr. Jim Yu; Adrienne Thompson; Josephine Gordy.
Orientation & Mentoring—Mehmet Ulutas; Nick Vicera;
Website and Public Relations: Dr. Joseph Johnson ; Adam Tavakoly
Business Forum/Director—Reza D’Jhanshahi; Adam Tavakoly
Fundraising—Time ran out
Outreach—Time ran out
Future Vision—Time ran out

Announcements: Mr. Victor Swaroop made the announcement about the following and urged board members to participate.

80-2- NAAPAC-FL

Asian American Statewide Summit

Adjournment: 8:15 meeting adjourned